

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of incentivising members of a disease management programme to comply with the programme, the method comprising the steps of:

defining a plurality of general programme areas and a plurality of specific programme areas, wherein the plurality of general programme areas are programme areas that if ~~compiled~~ complied with ~~will be~~ are of benefit to a member stricken with any disease managed by the disease management programme and wherein the plurality of specific programme areas are programme areas that are determined to be of particular benefit to a member afflicted with some but not all of the diseases managed by the disease management programme;

awarding points to a member for each of the general programme areas in which the member participates, the points being allocated to members based on a multi-level system, including:

a first level, wherein the member is awarded points for merely taking part in a programme area,

a second level, wherein the member is awarded a bonus set of points in addition to the points awarded in the first level in response to participating in ~~greater number of points for taking part in~~ all programme areas associated with a disease with which the member is afflicted, and

a third level, wherein the member is awarded points for attaining a minimum level for a measurable of a programme area associated with a disease with which the member is afflicted;

awarding points to a member for each of the specific programme areas in which the member participates, only if the member is afflicted with a disease to which the specific programme area in which the member participates has been determined to be of particular benefit;

calculating a total number of points awarded to the member, and

allocating a reward to the member if the total number of points awarded to the member accumulates to a predetermined amount of points.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein points are only awarded to the member if the member participates in all the programme areas which are associated with the disease or diseases with which the member is afflicted.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein additional points are awarded to the member if the member participates in all of the programme areas which are associated with the disease or diseases with which the member is afflicted.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the general programme areas are some of diet, exercise, smoking and education.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the specific programme areas are one or more of blood pressure, flow volume loop measurement, influenza vaccine, pneumococcal vaccine, cholesterol and long term glucose control.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further including the steps of:

defining a measurable within at least one of the general or specific programme areas so that a member's performance within said programme area can be ascertained;

defining a minimum level of the measurable, which minimum level indicates a minimum required level of member performance within the at least one programme area; and

awarding points to a member if the member obtains the defined minimum level of a measurable for the at least one programme area only if the member is afflicted with a disease which is associated with that particular programme area.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Withdrawn) A method of incentivising members of a disease management programme to comply with the programme, the method comprising the steps of:

defining a plurality of general programme areas and a plurality of specific programme areas, wherein the plurality of general programme areas are programme areas that if compiled with will be of benefit to a member stricken with any disease managed by the disease management programme and wherein the plurality of specific programme areas are programme areas that are determined to be of particular benefit to a member afflicted with some but not all of the diseases managed by the disease management programme;

defining a measurable within each of the general and specific programme areas so that a member's performance within said programme area can be ascertained;

defining a minimum level for each measurable, which minimum level indicates a minimum required level of member performance within each of the programme areas;

awarding points to a member if the member obtains the minimum level of a measurable for a particular programme area only if the member is afflicted with a disease which is associated with that particular programme area; and

allocating a reward to the member if the points awarded to the member accumulate to a predetermined amount.

9. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 8 wherein, additional points are awarded to the member if they obtain the minimum level of a measurable for all of the programme areas which are associated with the disease with which the member is afflicted.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Withdrawn) A method of incentivising members of a disease management programme to comply with the programme, the method comprising the steps of:

defining a plurality of general programme areas and a plurality of specific programme areas, wherein the plurality of general programme areas are programme areas that if complied with will be of benefit to a member stricken with any disease managed by the disease management programme and wherein the plurality of specific programme areas are programme areas that are determined to be of particular benefit to a member afflicted with some but not all of the diseases managed by the disease management programme;

awarding points to a member for each of the programme areas in which the member participates, only if the member is predisposed to being afflicted with a disease which is associated with that particular programme area; and

allocating a reward to the member if the points awarded to the member accumulate to a predetermined amount.

13. (Withdrawn) A method of incentivising members of a disease management programme to comply with the programme, the method comprising the steps of:

defining a plurality of general programme areas and a plurality of specific programme areas, wherein the plurality of general programme areas are programme areas that if compiled with will be of benefit to a member stricken with any disease managed by the disease management programme and wherein the plurality of specific programme areas are programme areas that are determined to be of particular benefit to a member afflicted with some but not all of the diseases managed by the disease management programme;

defining a measurable within each of the general and specific programme areas so that a member's performance within said programme area can be ascertained;

defining a minimum level for each measurable, which minimum level indicates a minimum required level of member performance within each of the programme areas; awarding points to a member if the member obtains the minimum level of a measurable for a particular programme area only if the member is predisposed to being afflicted with a disease which is associated with that particular programme area; and

allocating a reward to the member if the points awarded to the member accumulate to a predetermined amount.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the reward is related to the amount of points accumulated by the member.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the reward is a cash payout or special options on services.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein the services are one or more of airplane tickets, hotel accommodation and car rentals.

17. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 8 wherein the amount of the reward is related to the amount of points accumulated by the member.

18. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 8 wherein the reward is a cash payout or special options on services.

19. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 18 wherein the services are one or more of airplane tickets, hotel accommodation and car rentals.

20. (Withdrawn) A method of incentivising members of a disease management programme to comply with the disease management programme, the method comprising the steps of:

defining a measurable within an exercise programme area as being two fitness assessments per year, at least five months apart, so that a member's performance within said programme area can be ascertained;

defining a measurable within a smoking programme area as being a cotinine test, so that a member's performance within said programme area can be ascertained;

defining a measurable within an education programme area as being a questionnaire prepared by managers of the disease management programme, so that a member's performance within said programme area can be ascertained;

defining a minimum level of each measurable, which minimum level indicates a minimum required level of member performance within the programme area, the minimum level being:

for the exercise programme area, maintaining a predetermined level of fitness,
for the smoking programme area, a negative cotinine test, and

for the education programme area, completing the questionnaire; and

awarding points to a member if the member obtains the defined minimum level of the measurable for a particular programme area only if the member is afflicted with a disease which is associated with a particular programme area.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, including the steps of:

defining a measurable within a pneumococcal vaccine programme area as being a pneumococcal vaccination, so that a member's performance within said programme area can be ascertained, and in which the minimum level of member performance for the pneumococcal vaccine programme area is; receiving a pneumococcal vaccination once every five years; and

defining a measurable within a cholesterol programme area as being a cholesterol test once per year, so that a member's performance within said programme area can be ascertained, and in which the minimum level of member performance for the cholesterol programme area is: a cholesterol level of less than a predetermined level.

22. (New) A method of incentivising members of a disease management programme to comply with the programme, the method comprising the steps of:

defining a plurality of general programme areas and a plurality of specific programme areas, wherein the plurality of general programme areas are programme areas that if complied with are of benefit to a member stricken with any disease managed by the disease management programme and wherein the plurality of specific programme areas are programme areas that are determined to be of particular benefit to a member afflicted with some but not all of the diseases managed by the disease management programme;

combining the plurality of general programme areas and the plurality of specific programme areas into a programme of the disease management programme;

offering the programme comprising the plurality of general programme areas and the plurality of specific programme areas that have been combined to a plurality of members of the disease management programme, wherein at least two members in the plurality of members each comprise a different disease;

determining that at least one member in the plurality of members has participated in at least one of the plurality of specific programme areas;

identifying a disease associated with the at least one of the plurality of specific programme areas participated in by the member;

determining if the member is afflicted with the disease that has been identified; and

awarding points to the member for the at least one of the plurality of specific programme areas participated in by the member in response to determining that the member is afflicted with the disease that has been identified.

23. (New) A method of incentivising members of a disease management programme to comply with the programme, the method comprising the steps of:

defining a plurality of general programme areas and a plurality of specific programme areas, wherein the plurality of general programme areas are programme areas that if complied with are of benefit to a member stricken with any disease managed by the disease management programme and wherein the plurality of specific programme areas are programme areas that are determined to be of particular benefit to a member afflicted with some but not all of the diseases managed by the disease management programme;

combining the plurality of general programme areas and the plurality of specific programme areas into a programme of the disease management programme;

offering the programme comprising the plurality of general programme areas and the plurality of specific programme areas that have been combined to a plurality of members of the disease management programme, wherein at least two members in the plurality of members each comprise a different disease;

determining that at least one member in the plurality of members has participated in at least one programme area in at least one of the plurality of general programme areas and the plurality of specific programme areas;

awarding a first set of points to the member in response to the member participating in the at least one programme area, wherein the first set of points are awarded based on a multi-level system comprising:

a first level where the first set of points are allocated to the member after participating in a first programme area;

determining that the member has participated in all of the plurality general programme areas and a set of specific programme areas in the plurality of specific programme areas;

identifying a disease associated with the set of specific programme areas participated in by the member;

determining that the set of specific programme areas comprises all of the specific programme areas associated with the disease that has been identified;

determining if the member is afflicted with the disease that has been identified;

and

awarding a second set of points to the member for the at least one of the plurality of specific programme areas participated in by the member in response to determining that the member is afflicted with the disease that has been identified, wherein the second set of points are awarded based on the multi-level system comprising:

a second level where the second set of points are allocated to the member in addition to the first set of points in response to participating in all programme areas associated with the disease that the member is afflicted with;

determining that member has attained a minimum level for a measurable of at least one programme area associated with the disease that the member is afflicted with;

awarding a third set of points to the member in response to the member having attained the minimum level, wherein the second set of points are awarded based on the multi-level system comprising:

a third level where the third set of points are allocated based on the member having satisfied the first level and the second level, where the third set of points being allocated in addition to the first set of points and the second set of point;

calculating, based at least on the first set of points, the second set of points, and the third set of point, a total number of points awarded to the member, and

allocating a reward to the member if the total number of points awarded to the member accumulates to a predetermined amount of points.